

# ***SHELLS MESSENGER***

**Shells Evangelical Lutheran Church**

***September 2025***

Vibrant Worship + Active Service  
Accessible Education + Enriching Fellowship  
287 Shells Church Road, Grantville, PA 17028  
717-469-2586  
[www.shellschurch.org](http://www.shellschurch.org)

We are a community of the Triune God, nourished by Word and Sacrament, sent forth by the Holy Spirit into the Grantville community and beyond to share the life-changing news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed.

## **SAVE THE DATES:**

September 7 – Welcome Back Sunday/Brunch

September 14 @ 5pm – Hog Maw Dinner at St. John Hoernerstown

September 20 from 11am-3:30pm – East Hanover Park Day

September 21 from 4-6pm: **200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Hymn Sing and Pie Social**

September 26-28: Women's Retreat at Gretna Glen

September 29 @ 7pm - Feast of St. Michael and All Angels (*Blessing of First Responders*)

October 4 @ 6:30pm – Feast of St. Francis (*Blessing of the Animals*)

October 11 - National Acolyte Festival in Washington DC

October 18 at 7pm – Feast of St. Luke with Healing Liturgy

October 25 from 5-8pm – Annual Fall Festival

November 11 @ 6:30pm - Feast of St. Martin of Tours (*Blessing of Veterans*)

The racetrack project will be collecting items each month this year. September & October will be bar soap & combs and November & December will be tissues and lip balm. Thank you all for your help and continued support of this worthy cause.

This month's special offering will go to benefit the Love of Family fund. Please pick up an envelope in the narthex.

Beginning on Wednesday, September 10 at 2pm, we will host a grief support group in the Social Hall. Dates for grief support: September 10, 17, October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, November 12, 19, December 3, 10, 17, January 7.

# *Celebrating* **200** **JOIN US FOR OUR BICENTENNIAL EVENTS IN 2025**

## **Sunday, MAY 18**

11:00am

Cedar Grove, Grantville  
**LUNCH WITH THE  
BISHOP**

Join us for a festive lunch with Rev. James S. Dunlop, Bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod.

## **Wednesday, MAY 28**

6:30pm

Church  
**VESPERS & DESSERT**

## **Sunday, JUNE 8**

1:00-4:00pm

Church  
**OPEN HOUSE**  
The community is invited for Church and Cemetery Tours, demonstrations, music, food and Fun!

## **Sun.-Thu. JULY 6-10**

5:00-8:15pm

Church & Grounds

**VACATION**

**BIBLE SCHOOL**

5 nights of fun, food, activities and learning for kids (age 3 thru grade 5).

Special celebration Thursday night!

## **Sunday, AUGUST 17**

4:00-6:00pm

Church

**VESPERS w/Previous Pastors & DINNER**

## **Sun., SEPTEMBER 21**

4:00-6:00pm

Cedar Grove, Grantville

**HYMN SING & PIES**

Closing event with your favorite hymns and pies!

**287 SHELLS CHURCH ROAD  
GRANTVILLE, PA 17028**

717-469-2586 [shellsadmin@shellschurch.org](mailto:shellsadmin@shellschurch.org)  
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**Randy Gotshall Memorial Music Benefit will be held Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>** at the Gratz VFW Grounds on 424 Specktown Rd., Lykens, PA from 12-5 pm. There will be four bands, food truck availability. Music, music, music and more music. A day that Randy would love. All donations go to benefit Shells Lutheran Church and Randy's gravestone.

**Welcome Back Brunch 2025 will be September 7.** There is a signup sheet in the narthex for donations. While this is not officially a Children in Worship Sunday, be sure to bring your kiddos and come out to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Baptism for Rosaleigh Elizabeth Long during 9am Worship.

**Do you feel called to serve as a Worship Assistant?**

Did you know that we need at least 7 volunteers each time we gather for Worship? Worshipping God in the Lutheran Tradition is not a spectator sport.

There are a variety of ways to serve in the worshipping of God here at Shells 🏡 Church 🏰 - here are a few!

- Assistant to the Celebrant: prays the Prayers of Intercession and assists with Communion Distribution.
- Greeter/Usher: welcomes folks when we gather, hands out bulletins, collects the offering, and invites people to receive Communion.
- Lector: reads the appointed scriptures for the day.
- Communion Assistant: assists with Communion distribution.
- Acolyte/s: carries the cross or processional torch, holds the missal book for the Celebrant, and rings the altar bells during the Eucharistic Prayer.
- Cantor: chants the Psalm for the day.
- Bell Ringer: rings the 1853 steeple bell at the beginning of Worship and during the Lord's Prayer.
- Altar Guild: prepares the Sanctuary for Worship and the celebration of Holy Communion.

No matter your age, please prayerfully consider serving in one or more of these capacities. Be sure to reach out to the Church Office or Fr. Barnes if you are willing to serve.

**It is time for a New Picture Directory.** Our church directory will not be the same without you. Join us to celebrate faith and family with our new church family album. Everyone who is photographed by Universal will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and a directory! Photo days - Thursday, September 11 , 2:00 - 8:30 pm, Friday, September 12, 2:00 - 8:30 pm and Saturday, September 13, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. I will be scheduling appointments before and after church on Sunday, August 3, August 10, and August 17. Any questions please contact Sandy Mader @ 717-856-2713 or email @ [maderbunch@comcast.net](mailto:maderbunch@comcast.net).

**Welcome to our 2025-2026 Sunday School Classes!** On September 14, 2025 Children/Youth Sunday School classes and Confirmation classes will resume in the Education Building at 9am. The Adult Forum will resume at 10:45am in the Social Hall. Bible Study resumes on September 8 at 6:30pm in the Shells Social Hall. All classes will meet from September through May. We invite you to be part of this wonderful opportunity to worship God and learn about his salvation for us in Jesus Christ.

*Our Sincerest "THANK YOU" to all of our Shells Church family for the endless kindness and prayers that we received during this sad journey, in losing Randy. Our hearts are filled with so much appreciation to all of you. God bless all of you.*

*Diane (Layton) Gotshall and Family*

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## SHELLS MUSIC MINISTRY

Welcome to the 2025-2026 choir season at Shells! Our music ministry is deeply rooted in Holy Scripture, supporting and enhancing the congregation in worship. Our choir season runs from September to May, offering many opportunities to participate in our shared music ministry.

The **Senior Choir** rehearses weekly on **Thursday evenings** from **7:00 to 8:15 p.m.**, beginning this year on **Thursday, September 11**. Our Senior Choir leads Sunday worship, enhancing the liturgy with choral offerings, psalms, hymnody and gospel acclamations. We strive to challenge ourselves with a wide selection of choral repertoire for our lectionary-based worship. We invite any Senior High youth through adults to join Senior Choir!

***Children In Worship*** is our Sunday School music program for **preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade**, providing opportunities for our children to share in worship in many ways. The children learn music for *Shells Bells*, our children's bell choir, scripture readings with rhythm instruments and participate in special presentations. *Shells Bells* play and learn music as part of the Sunday school opening each week, beginning at 9am.

On *Children in Worship* Sundays our Sunday School children, confirmands and youth also assist with worship by serving as acolytes, torch bearers, book bearer, crucifer, reading the lessons, and leading the Prayers of Intercession. The children participate in worship the **first Sunday** of each **month**, October through May, beginning **October 5**.

We're excited to begin another season of **Children and Youth Handchime Choir** for **children entering 2<sup>nd</sup> grade through senior high youth!** The Handchime Choir rehearses the **first and third Sunday** of each month from **10:30 – 11:00 a.m.**, starting **October 5**. Our ringers work on ringing techniques, recognizing notes and learning music for worship. Please join us to discover Handchimes!

Our youth also have the opportunity to share in our music ministry with seasonal choir, ensembles, solos, keyboard and instrumental music scheduled during the choir year. Please let me know if you play an instrument in band or orchestra.

An invitation to share in our music ministry is extended to all! We hope the opportunity to be a part of our music ministry at Shells brings our members joy and spiritual uplifting, as we bring joy to others with our musical offerings, while giving glory to God. We are grateful for those who are able to share this gift with others.

Please don't hesitate to call, text or email me if you have any questions: cell phone (717) 991-8862 or email at [scdbjd@aol.com](mailto:scdbjd@aol.com).

With joyful songs and praise,  
Barbara Dupler  
Director of Music

*Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
Take my moments and my days;  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

*Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King,  
Take my lips and let them be  
filled with messages from thee.*

*Take My Life, That I May Be ELW 685*

**STEWARDSHIP/GIVING** *(July 31, 2025)***2025 Approved Budget \$295,815**

General Fund Income: \$159,218.03  
 General Fund Expenses: \$175,806.05

**Special Funds YTD Contributions**

Grantville Food Pantry: \$4,971,74  
 Capital Improvement Fund: \$40,135  
 Adult Forum: \$479  
 ELCA World Hunger: \$2,480  
 Lutheran Campus Ministry: \$1,025  
 Lutheran Disaster Response \$2,870  
 Love of Family \$5,770  
 Kid to Kid (VBS): \$586  
 Central PA Food Bank: \$1,000  
 Abiding Memorial Fund: \$50,965

**BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES – SEPTEMBER**

*Steve Espenshade, Karlene Jaggan, Matthew Terry, Diane Elliott, Sherry Ulsh, Justine Wiltraut,  
 Grant Kauffman, Gracelyn Hilbert, Lucas Terry, Jeff Buse, Erik Espenshade, Sheryl Rozman,  
 Marilee Hrivnak,*

***God will never forget that you are his child.***

**BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**

9/1	Kiera Karijomenggolo	9/11	Lauren O'Brien
	Mary Shellenberger	9/13	Ellie Frye
9/2	Jeff Buse	9/14	Azyel Jaggan
9/4	Shirley Huber	9/15	Dan Boyer
	Rodney Peffer		Craig Espenshade
	Ryan Jaggan	9/22	Katherine Shellenberger
9/6	Brandon Suhr	9/29	Diana Budd
9/7	Troy Wiltraut		Anna Holler
9/8	Laura Molitoris		
9/10	Don Whitehaus		

## **PRAYER LIST**

**Prayers for healing of body, mind, or spirit:** Joe Budd, Crist Espensshade, Mim Fake, Ed Fake, Herb Fisher, Diane Gotshall, The Rev. Peter Helmers, Alfred Howard, Douglass Howard Jr., Shirley Huber, Nancy Iachini, Keira K, Iva Rodemaker, Rena Sattazahn, Lucas Smith, Tracy Smith, Larry Suhr, Bev Ulsh and Jack Ulsh, Don Whitehaus, our homebound members, our Law Enforcement Officers and Service Women & Men, especially Matt Gordon, Nikolas Jaggan, Domonic DeFrank, Keegan Wenner, Stephen Lugovich, Blake O'Brien, Michael Knaub, John Thomas and Chris O'Brien.

**Those who have died:**

**Those preparing for Holy Matrimony:** Amber Sherman and Ryan Jaggan.

**Those in the Shells Church Catechumenate Process (those preparing for full Confirmed/Voting membership in this congregation):** Lexi Frye, Emma Jurell, Evelyn Mende, Julia O'Brien, and Nora Holler.

**With thanksgiving, we remember the lives of those who have gone before us in the faith.** This month we remember *Sarah Folgelsonger, David Kirkpatrick, Kendra Kramer, Harry Mader, Anna Mae Metzger, Michael A. Nickle, Edgar Plouse Jr. Edgar Plouse Sr. Frieda Terry, Michael Yancheff.*

**Family & Friends:** Saadia Baker, Skip Balmer, Bill Birtle, Tom Boblitz, Dawn Brink, Owen Burns, David Cavanaugh, Kathie Cavanaugh, Cory Cerperich, Dianne Czupil, Karen Domenico, Verna Ebersole, Joan Espensshade, Lori Farro, Erma Fiedler, Bob Gagliardi, Eileen Gagliardi, Christie Gamber, Nancy Gamber, Michael Gelehorte, Michelle Gillette, Adam Gold, Ryann Gold, Anne Gordon, Marian Gudelski, Tom Gussler, Emily Hand, Rob Herman, Michael Hudak, Ben Isett, Elaine Julian, Kerm Katzaman, Joyce King, Lydia Joy Konisiewicz, Joanne Lauver, Lee Lippi, Eileen Longreen, Paul Longreen, Chris Kelly, Pokhim Ker, Rose Mangle, Barb Morrow, Nancy Osokie, Amanda Peck, Maisie Peeler, Lisa Pesta, Tony Prisco, Michael Riley, Laura Lou Rinker, Molly Reinhart, June Rohrbach, Marc Rozman, Natalie Rozman, Sandi Rozman, Ryan, Suzanne Shaeffer, Bill Shultz, Janet Shultz, Darby Sims, Kai Sims, Kathy Spangler, Jay Stahl, Arlene Terry, Stephanie Wagner, Aria Wenner, Kyle Wentz, Carol Wilson, and Jennie Womack.

**Anyone wishing to place someone on the prayer list** may call Theresa at the Shells Office, at 717-469-2586 or email at [shellsadmin@shellschurch.org](mailto:shellsadmin@shellschurch.org). Also, please remember to remove the names when it is appropriate.

**Worship Assistants Schedule: September/October**

	<b>Assistant</b>	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Communion Assistant</b>	<b>Greeter /Usher</b>	<b>Altar Care</b>
<b>September 7 The 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	Karlene Jaggan	Emma Jurell	Abigail Blair (+), Douglass Howard, & Lucas Terry	Audrey Neiswender	Amber Sherman & Family	Raelene Smith & Janet Klos
<b>September 14 The 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	Raelene Smith	Lisa Lugovich	Ellie Frye, (+) Lexi Frye, & Mary Shellenberger	Louise Murphy	Rick & Linda Blair	Louise Murphy, Karen Gussler & Bobbie Boyer
<b>September 21 The 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	Gen Whitehaus	Brenda Frye	Douglass Howard	Don Whitehaus	Tom & Sandy Mader	Diane Suhr & Terry Kamerzel
<b>September 28 The 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	Karen Gussler	Nadine Espenshade	Emma Jurell	Audrey Neiswender	Rich & Nadine Espenshade	Steve, Kathy & Bethany Espenshade
<b>September 29 at 7pm Feast of St. Michael and All Angels</b>	Raelene Smith	Ed Fake	Mary Shellnberger, Douglass Howard, and (+) Jacob Mende	Don Whitehaus	Tom & Carol Gordon	
<b>October 5 The 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	Sherry Ulsh	Julia O'Brien	(+) Ellie Frye, Emma Jurell, & Nora Holler	Louise Murphy	Bert & Karen Gussler	Sandy Mader & Katie Shellenberger
<b>October 12 The 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	Karlene Jaggan	Brenda Frye	Julia O'Brien	Audrey Neiswender	Rick & Linda Blair	Diana Budd & Carol Gordon
<b>October 18 @ 7pm Feast of St. Luke</b>	Karen Gussler	Raelene Smith	Douglass Howard	Louise Murphy	Tom & Sandy Mader	
<b>October 19 The 29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	Gen Whitehaus	Steve Espenshade	Abigail Blair	Don Whitehaus	Tom & Sandy Mader	Raelene Smith & Janet Klos
<b>October 26 Reformation Sunday</b>	Raelene Smith	Erica Strang	(+) Mary Shellenberger, Lucas Terry, & Douglass Howard	Louise Murphy	Joe & Diana Budd	Louise Murphy, Karen Gussler, Bobbie Boyer

**If you are unable to serve on your scheduled date please find a replacement and notify the Church Office by Wednesday of each week.**

**On Sundays that have more than one acolyte scheduled, the name with the (+) denotes serving as the main acolyte (carries the cross, holds the missal book, etc).**

## SEPTEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Shirley Huber Birthday Party
<b>7</b> <b>Ordinary</b> <b>Time 23</b> Holy Baptism Welcome Back Brunch	<b>8</b> 6:30pm Bible Study @ Shells	<b>9</b> 6:30pm Parish Council	<b>10</b> 2pm Grief Support	<b>11</b> Picture Day 2-8:30pm  7pm Choir	<b>12</b> Picture Day 2-8:30pm	<b>13</b> Picture Day 10am – 4pm
<b>14</b> <b>Ordinary</b> <b>Time 24</b> 9am Children/Youth Sunday School & Confirmation 10:45am Adult Forum 5pm Hog Maw Dinner @ St. John Hoernerstown	<b>15</b> Race Track Meal  5:30pm Finance Meeting  6:30pm Bible Study @ St. John Hoernerstown	<b>16</b> 6:45pm Worship, Music, and Altar Meeting	<b>17</b> 2pm Grief Support  Food Pantry	<b>18</b> 7pm Choir  Food Pantry	<b>19</b> Food Pantry	<b>20</b> 11am-3:30pm East Hanover Park Day  12-5pm Randy Gotshall Memorial Music Benefit
<b>21</b> <b>Ordinary</b> <b>Time 25</b> 9am Children/Youth Sunday School & Confirmation 10:45am Adult Forum <b>4-6pm Hymn Sing &amp; Pies</b>	<b>22</b> 6:30pm Bible Study @ Shells	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 7pm Choir	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <b>Ordinary</b> <b>Time 26</b> 9am Children/Youth Sunday School & Confirmation 10:45am Adult Forum & Youth Group	<b>29</b> 7pm <b>Feast of St. Michael &amp; All Angels (Blessing of First Responders)</b>	<b>30</b>				

**SHELLS EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

287 Shells Church Rd.

Grantville, PA 17028

Office phone: 717-469-2586

Church website: shellschurch.org

**The Rev. W. L. Barnes, III, *STS*, Pastor**

Cell: 717-870-4505

Email: fatherbarnes3@gmail.com

**Barbara Dupler, Director of Music**

Email: scdbjd@aol.com

**Theresa Reidmiller, Administrative Assistant**

Email: shellsadmin@shellschurch.org

**Charles Schreiber, Treasurer**

Email: charlieschreiber514@gmail.com

**Council Members:**

C. Blair, S. Espenshade, B. Frye (VP), C. Frye (S), S. Mader (P), M. Stremmel, T. Terry, S. Ulsh (T)